



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 11/17/03

Signature:

Docket No.: 022956-0233
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart

Application No.: 10/623,212

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: July 18, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR ANCHORING
AUTOLOGOUS OR ARTIFICIAL TENDON GRAFTS
IN BONE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby cite for the record in this application the enclosed documents listed on the attached PTO Form PTO/SB/08A. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the references are not submitted herewith insofar as they are all believed to be in the Examiner's file already. The references were previously cited in United States Patent Application No. 08/976,257 filed on November 21, 1997 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,616,694, issued September 9, 2003) and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)), and thus no fees

are believed to be due. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 022956-0233.

Dated: November 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Lisa J. Michaud

Registration No.: 44,238

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

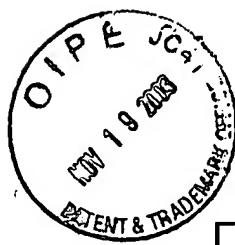
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2550 (tel)

(617) 310-9550 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents for Applicant

1274377.1



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket Number
-------	---	----	---	------------------------

Complete If Known

Application Number	10/623,212
Filing Date	July 18, 2003
First Named Inventor	Rickey D. Hart
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		2381050	Aug., 1945	Hardinge.	
		3036482	May., 1962	Kenworthy et al.	
		3566739	Mar., 1971	Lebar	
		3708883	Jan., 1973	Flander	
		3842824	Oct., 1974	Neufeld	
		4013071	Mar., 1977	Rosenberg	
		4091806	May., 1978	Aginsky	
		4408938	Oct., 1983	Maguire	
		4484570	Nov., 1984	Sutter et al.	
		4492226	Jan., 1985	Belykh et al.	
		4506670	Mar., 1985	Crossley	
		4590928	May., 1986	Hunt et al.	
		4632100	Dec., 1986	Somers et al.	
		4716893	Jan., 1988	Fischer et al.	
		4738255	Apr., 1988	Goble et al.	
		4741330	May., 1988	Hayhurst	
		4744793	May., 1988	Parr et al.	
		4778468	Oct., 1988	Hunt et al.	
		4828562	May., 1989	Kenna	
		4870957	Oct., 1989	Goble et al.	
		4871289	Oct., 1989	Choiniere	
		4873976	Oct., 1989	Schreiber	
		4927421	May., 1990	Gobel et al.	
		4940467	Jul., 1990	Tronzo	
		4944742	Jul., 1990	Clemow et al.	
		5013316	May., 1991	Goble et al.	
		5037422	Aug., 1991	Hayhurst et al.	
		5046513	Sep., 1991	Gatturna et al.	
		5116337	May., 1992	Johnson	
		5141373	Aug., 1992	Kendall	
		5141520	Aug., 1992	Goble et al.	
		5152763	Oct., 1992	Johnson	
		5152790	Oct., 1992	Rosenberg et al.	
		5169400	Dec., 1992	Muhling et al.	
		5176682	Jan., 1993	Chow	
		5207679	May., 1993	Li	
		5209753	May., 1993	Biedermann et al.	
		RE34293	Jun., 1993	Goble et al.	
		5224946	Jul., 1993	Hayhurst et al.	
		5236445	Aug., 1993	Hayhurst et al.	
		5248231	Sep., 1993	Denham et al.	
		5258015	Nov., 1993	Li et al.	



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/623,212
				Filing Date	July 18, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Rickey D. Hart
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket Number 022956-0233	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
-----------------------	--------------------	--